

# Miracle of Gratitude



# Confirmation Sunday





# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559 [www.uccmedina.org](http://www.uccmedina.org)

**\*\*\*Assisted Listening Devices Available – Please Ask Your Usher\*\*\***

LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT [UCCMEDINA.ORG](http://UCCMEDINA.ORG)

- *During the 10:30 service, Jesus Vibes Sunday School is available for ages 3-8<sup>th</sup> grade*

## **“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS”**

*Please take a moment to sign the attendance pads, (located at the end of each pew) so that you know who is worshipping near you and you may greet them by name.*

*\*Those who are able please stand*

### RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE “June (Barcarolle)” Op. 37, No. 6 – Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky Ian Morgan, Pianist

### WELCOME

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (a Statement of Faith written with our confirmands) Price Bilikam

We believe that God is the creator of all things.

**We believe that God is the mysterious source from which everything comes,**

God is the Holy One who Is.

**In God we live, and move, and have our being.**

We believe that God gives breath to all living things, and says the created world is good.

**We believe that God is love, and God accepts everyone.**

We believe that we are God’s offspring,

**whom he taught to seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly.**

We believe that God forgives us, and saves us, and is worthy of our praise.

**We believe that God is the greatest, the light of the world, whose love is forever.**

### **\*OPENING HYMN**

**“Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”**

*Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.*

NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D  
*John Wyeth’s Repository of Sacred Music, 1813*



1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;  
 2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,  
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.  
 come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.  
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.  
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,  
 Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail - ing love.  
 Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless - ed bod - y, pre - cious blood.  
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

**SCRIPTURE** 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24 (N.T. pg. 193) Olivia Miller

**POEM OF THE DAY** "Magic" by Donna Ashworth Julia Black  
 Wild Hope: Healing words to find light on dark days.  
 Mango Publishing Group, Coral Gables, FL, 2023.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" – Peter C. Lutkin Chancel Choir

**MESSAGE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY OF GOD** Stacie Yates

**The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

## SERMON

"The Miracle of Gratitude"

Rev. Meghan Malone

## REFLECTION HYMN

"Now Thank We All Our God"

*Martin Rinkart, 1636; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt.*

NUN DANKET 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6.  
*Johann Crüger, 1647; harm. F. Mendelssohn, 1840*



1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic - es,
2. O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
3. All praise and thanks to God our Fa - ther and our Moth - er,



who won-drous things has done, in whom the world re - joic - es,  
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless-ed peace to cheer us,  
to Christ and to the One who binds us to each oth - er,



who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blessed us on our way  
and keep us full of grace, and guide us when per - plexed,  
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heaven a - dore,



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.  
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

## ORDER OF CONFIRMATION

**Invitation to the Confirmands**

**Questions to the Confirmands**

*When prompted, the congregational replies:*

**We promise our love, our support and our prayer.**

**Prayer Over the Confirmands**

**God who is love, in baptism you poured out your grace on each of these students. In faith, we have shared the good news of Christ with them. May we continue to grow together through the Holy Spirit. Grant them joy in their journeys, courage to face evil, and strength through their faith in you. Amen.**

**Litany of Confirmation**

**Reminder of Baptism**

**Reading of the Confirmand's Scripture**

**Remarks from the Confirmand**

**Blessing of the Confirmand**

**Welcome of the Church**

Moderator, Alyson Alber

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table. You do not need to be a member of the United Church of Christ to partake in the Holy Sacrament. All bread served is gluten free.*

**Invitation to the Table**

**The Words of Institution**

**Prayer**

**Distribution of the Elements**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Blake Stepsis

**God of peace, thank you for surrounding us with love. Help us to do good in your name and encourage each other. You have called each of us by name, and you will be faithful to us. Amen.**

## \*CLOSING HYMN

**"Thank You, Lord"**

*Traditional African-American song*

THANK YOU, LORD 3:3-3:7.  
*Trad. African-American melody; harm. J. Jefferson Cleveland & Verolga Nix, alt.*  
Harm © 1981 The United Methodist Publishing House



1. Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord, thank you,  
 2. Been so good, been so good, been so  
 3. Been my friend, been my friend, been my



Lord, I just want to thank you, Lord.  
 good, I just want to thank you, Lord.  
 friend, I just want to thank you, Lord.

**\*ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Lyla Davis

As you go today, remember the magic of gratitude.  
**Leave space in your heart for noticing the good things.**  
 Look around and see the artwork of God in your neighbor.  
**Believe in the Holy Spirit and rejoice in how she works in each of us.**  
 Remind yourself that you are blessed to be a blessing.  
**Let us give thanks by going forth to welcome, love, and serve!**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "God Be with You"**

**God be with you 'til we meet again; By His counsels guide uphold you;  
 With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you 'til we meet again.**

**\*POSTLUDE "Recessional for a Joyful Day" - Dale Wood**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

**"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**

+++++

*\*\*\*Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service\*\*\**

**Coffee Hour is hosted this week by the Congregational Council in honor of our Confirmands**

+++++

Music in this bulletin reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under:

ONE LICENSE, License #A-605137. All rights reserved and CCLI, License #1637380 & #21333812



# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## MAY 5, 2024

**“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.  
MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”**

Live streaming of the Sanctuary service is available at [www.uccmedina.org/live](http://www.uccmedina.org/live)

**May 5 thru May 12, 2024**

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>CONFIRMATION SUNDAY</b>                    |
|              | 8:15 am Chapel Worship                        |
|              | 9:00 am Gathering Worship                     |
|              | 9:00 am Choir rehearsal                       |
|              | 10:00 am Children’s Choir                     |
|              | 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship                    |
|              | 11:45 am Mission Team Meeting                 |
|              | 4:30 pm Youth Group                           |
| <b>Mon</b>   | Cook for Cups                                 |
|              | 8:00 am Men’s Breakfast                       |
|              | 2:00 pm Miracle of the Moment<br>Book Study   |
|              | 5:00 pm Youth Book Club                       |
|              | 6:15 pm Bell Choir                            |
|              | 6:30 pm Women’s Bible Study                   |
| <b>Tues</b>  | 7:00 pm Bible Study                           |
| <b>Wed</b>   | 10:30 am Quilters                             |
|              | 6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal              |
|              | 7:00 pm DELTs Meeting                         |
| <b>Thurs</b> | 7:00 pm Hobby Horse Preschool<br>Team Meeting |
| <b>Fri</b>   | 7:00 pm Mental Health Support<br>Group        |
| <b>Sat</b>   |   |
| <b>Sun</b>   | 8:15 am Chapel Worship                        |
|              | 9:00 am Gathering Worship                     |
|              | 9:00 am Choir rehearsal                       |
|              | 10:00 am Children’s Choir                     |
|              | 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship                    |

**Worship Highlights:** 8:15, 9 & 10:30 am

Scriptures: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24

Sermon: “The Miracle of Gratitude”  
Rev. Meghan Malone

**Communion Table:** The communion table flowers are given by Mark & Karen Woodling in honor of their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

We will have **ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.** The Annual Meeting will immediately follow.

## **AMANDA FUND OFFERING**

**MOTHER’S DAY, MAY 12TH**

The Amanda Fund, founded by a Medina UCC member, provides assistance to families with medical bills and other related costs that arise during extended or frequent hospitalizations of their children. On May 12<sup>th</sup>, we ask that you be generous in supporting the Amanda Fund with your contribution. Checks should be made payable to our church with “Amanda Fund” noted in the memo. Your donation may also be made online through Realm - see the line item for Amanda Fund.

## **MEN’S BREAKFAST**

Mark your calendars for the next Men’s Breakfast on Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at Buehler’s River Styx at 8:00 am. All men of the church are invited. No reservations required. We hope to see you there!

## **NEW BIBLE STUDY**

---

The Miracle of the Moment Bible Study continues on **Mondays at 2 and 7 pm, April 21<sup>st</sup> - May 20<sup>th</sup>**. No need to read ahead, but you are welcome to! We'll present the books. We'll read a few together. For all ages and abilities.

May 6: How to Be Here by Rob Bell

May 13: Be Here Now by Ram Dass

May 20: Wild Hope by Donna Ashworth

## **STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>**

---

Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. We hope you will continue to sustain this work by giving generously to this offering on Pentecost, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Checks should be made payable to our church with "Strengthen the Church" noted in the memo. Your donation may also be made online through Realm – see the line item for Strengthen the Church.

## **MAY MONTHLY DONATION**

---

This month we will be collecting personal care items! As the summer approaches many of the kids in our community will not have access to personal care items because the schools will not be open to provide such items. We would love to supply the Garfield families with some personal care items for the whole family! Donations like toothpaste, toothbrushes, floss, mouthwash, deodorant, body wash, bar soap and shampoo! We would really appreciate some "kid" personal care items to place in the Garfield care packages! Whatever you feel so moved to place in the donation box will be distributed with love and kindness throughout the community!

## **CRAFTS READY FOR DELIVERY**

---

Circle of Caring Outreach Spring Crafts are available for delivery to our most senior adult church members who are homebound and in care facilities. Visit the display in the Welcome Area. Please sign your name or initials to the recipient's name on the sheet provided to indicate a craft has been taken for delivery. Please call the recipient ahead to make arrangements for delivery. Thank you for your help, it is greatly appreciated.

## **SAFETY TEAM**

---

Interested in joining the Medina UCC Safety Team? Please consider joining us for our first meeting back together since the pandemic on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am in the new library (downstairs by the entry way off the parking lot). If you have questions, please text (or call) Julie Gilliland at 216-990-5767 or Ken Zuehlke at 216-990-3368. We look forward to reigniting this team and bringing some new members into the group.

## **HOPE RECOVERY COMMUNITY DINNER DONATIONS**

---

Our church will be serving the Saturday night dinner at Hope Recovery Community on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Sign-ups to donate items for chicken and vegetables over biscuits and to help serve dinner are located in the Welcome Area. Donations can be left in the baskets below the sign-up table or the refrigerator in the library. Thank you for considering this community outreach.

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

---

It's that time of year again! Vacation Bible School will be held June 3<sup>rd</sup> – June 6<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme is "Just Like Me." Come and join us in the garden as we celebrate who we are, learn how to use our voice, and share our gifts with our community. We will meet every day for stories, games, snacks, music, science and crafts. Our week will conclude with a visit from Ohio Bird Sanctuary and some of their amazing birds and, of course, ice cream sundaes! Registration is open now! [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#). If you have any questions, please contact Stacie Yates.



---

## IN APPRECIATION

---

If you see Maureen Walker today, please extend your gratitude as this marks her last day serving as the leader of our Mission Team. Maureen has been a faithful servant in many capacities over the last several decades. We appreciate her graciously and generously lending her time, talents and treasures in countless ways. We will be celebrating during our monthly meeting in the library today following the 10:30 service. Feel free to pop in and thank Maureen for her work leading our Mission Team.

---

## MEMBER HONORED

---

Our congratulations go to Dick Komjati upon receiving a 70-year membership certificate from the State of Ohio American Legion.

---

## SUMMER MUSIC

---

We are looking for vocal and instrumental solos, duets, trios, quartets, etc. to provide special music this summer for the 8:15 and/or 10:30 services.

A sign-up sheet for all three months has gone on the music board in the East Room hallway outside of my office. Please sign up for interested date(s). Once you've signed up, an email will come to you with more specific information! Peace & Blessings, Jenny

---

**The deadline for submission of articles for NEXT Sunday's *Messenger* is this Sunday at 11:30 am**  
**Please submit articles to the church office at [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)**  
**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9 am – 3 pm MONDAY THRU THURSDAY; FRIDAY 9 am**  
**– 12 pm**

### **PASTORAL STAFF**

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - [luke@uccmedina.org](mailto:luke@uccmedina.org)

Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission -  
[meghan@uccmedina.org](mailto:meghan@uccmedina.org)

Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – [karen@uccmedina.org](mailto:karen@uccmedina.org)

### **OFFICE STAFF**

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)

Pete Metzloff, Interim Financial Director - [pete@uccmedina.org](mailto:pete@uccmedina.org)

### **PROGRAM STAFF**

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – [stacie@uccmedina.org](mailto:stacie@uccmedina.org)

Jennifer Cochran, Director of Music - [jenny@uccmedina.org](mailto:jenny@uccmedina.org)

Cathy Fafrak, Organist & Office Assistant – [cathy@uccmedina.org](mailto:cathy@uccmedina.org)

Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – [jen@uccmedina.org](mailto:jen@uccmedina.org)

Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

# *Confirmation Class 2023 – 2024*



***Price Bilikam***

*Parents: Ryan & Melissa Bilikam*

*Mentor: Josh Nolan*



***Julia Black***

*Parents: Kerri & Mike Black*

*Mentor: Nicci Avalon*



***Lyla Davis***

*Parent: Nicole Davis*

*Mentor: Ann Nagy*



***Olivia Miller***

*Parents: Jeff & Melissa Miller*

*Mentor: Stacie Yates*



***Blake Stepsis***

*Parents: Toby & Stephanie Stepsis*

*Mentor: Katy Medley*

---

May 5, 2024  
Sixth Sunday of Easter

---

John 15:9-17

**“Friends Together”**

*John 15:9-11 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.*

Great Thanksgiving Communion Prayer for Rural Life Sunday

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our God thanks and praise.**

Dear God, Creator of all things.

Long ago, in the very beginning, you knelt down and scooped a handful of dirt from the ground. You looked at the handful of dirt and you knew it could live. And so you formed us, not crawling upon the face of the Earth, but intimately connected with Her.

In all times and places, your people have looked at the soil and, having first given thanks for what that soil can bring forth, have then planted seeds, tended and sown.

The result of that gratitude and hard work is laid before us now on this table. Wheat and water, ground and risen, became bread. Grapes, painstakingly crushed, became juice/wine. Like Jesus, who gathered with his friends on that holy night long ago, today we give thanks for the elements before us, and for the lands and people that produced it.

We sing with gratitude as your people have sung across the lands and the generations, Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!